

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An external storage device connectable to a host computer, comprising:

- a non-volatile semiconductor memory;
- a part for connecting to the host computer; and
- a part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory.

wherein the non-volatile semiconductor memory is divided into plural areas wherein a first one of said plural areas is read, written or erased by the host computer through first commands and a second one of said plural areas is read, written or erased by the host computer through second commands which are different from said first commands.

2. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 1, further comprising information indicative of the plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory,

the external storage device dynamically changing the sizes of the first and second areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory on the basis of an instruction of the host computer by a part which rewrites the information indicating of the plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory.

3. – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 1, wherein the non-volatile semiconductor memory includes plural areas in which a data area is made of a protected data area and a non-protected data area, and wherein, when the host computer is to access the protected data area, the external storage device performs authentication through an authentication procedure for accessing to the protected data area.

7. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 1, wherein the non-volatile semiconductor memory includes an area which stores data of the host computer and an area which stores information on the external storage device,

wherein the area of the non-volatile semiconductor memory which stores the data of the host computer is made of a protected data area and a non-protected data area,

wherein the area of the non-volatile semiconductor memory which stores the information on the external storage device stores location information on the protected data area,

wherein the external storage device dynamically changes the protected data area of the non-volatile semiconductor memory on the basis of an instruction of the host computer by a part which rewrites the location information on the protected data area of the non-volatile semiconductor memory, and

wherein, when the host computer is to access the protected data area, the external storage device performs authentication through an authentication procedure for accessing to the protected data area.

8. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 1, further comprising a part, which is provided in the connecting part and recognizes the kind of host computer during activation, performing access control on the plural areas of the non-volatile semiconductor memory according to the kind of host computer.

9. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 1, the plural areas comprising:

a user data area for storing user data therein; and

a management data area for storing management data therein;

the user data area further comprising said first and second areas, wherein said first area is a normal area and said second area is a protected area.

10. (Currently Amended) An external storage device according to claim 9, ~~the plural commands comprising~~wherein:

the first commands are commands for accessing to the normal area; ~~and~~,

the second commands are commands for accessing to the protected area,

and

~~wherein~~ the first commands for accessing to the normal area and the second commands for accessing to the protected area are different from each other.

11. (Currently Amended) An external storage device according to claims 10, wherein:

the management data area stores a start address of the protected area; and

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory accesses the

protected area when the second command is for accessing to the protected area and an address issued prior to the commands by the host computer coincides with the start address of the protected area within the management data area and a protection function of the protected area is disabled.

12. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 9, wherein:

the management data area stores a start address of the protected area; and

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory accesses the protected area when an address issued prior to the commands by the host computer coincides with the start address of the protected area within the management data area.

13. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 9, wherein:

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out authentication of a user, and it disables a protection function of the protected area when the authentication of the user is successful.

14. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 13, wherein:

the management data area stores a password of the user; and

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out the authentication of the user by comparing a password from the host computer to the password stored in the management data area.

15. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 13, wherein:

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out the authentication of the user when a command from the host computer is a protection disabling command for disabling the protection function for the protected area.

16. (Previously Presented) An external storage device according to claim 13, wherein:

the part for controlling the non-volatile semiconductor memory carries out authentication of the user when the external storage device is turned on.